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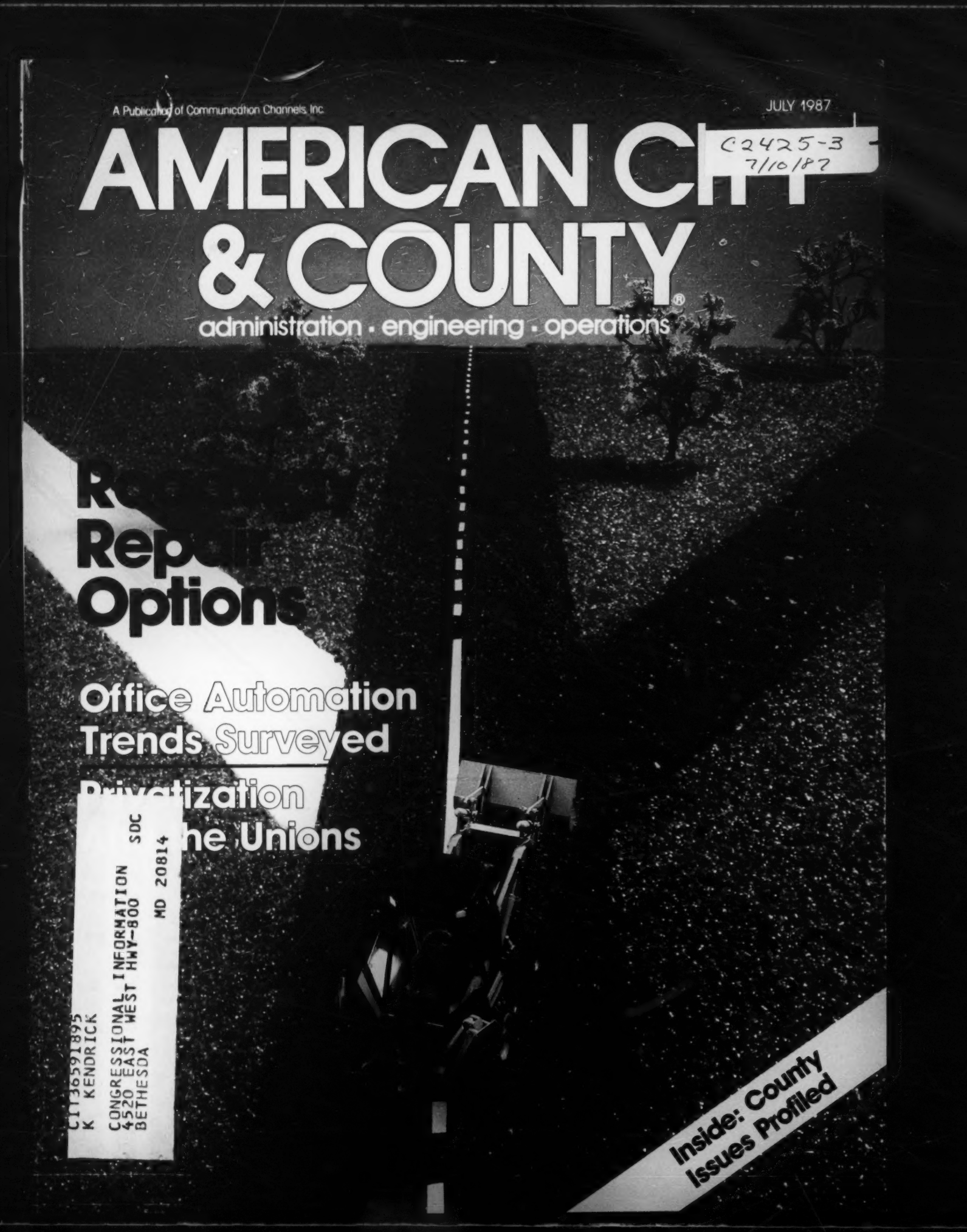

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Privatization ...he Unions

Inside: County Issues Profiled

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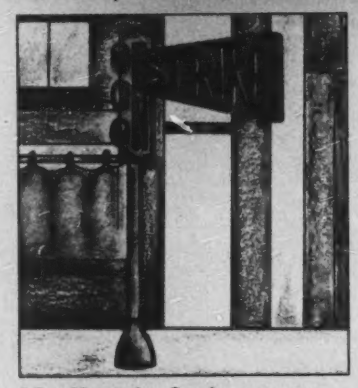

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ACROSS AMERICA

GFOA Conducts 81st Conference

Louis Hayward was looking for gold. Not the shiny, sure-to-cause-a-stampede kind of 1896 and California, but the gold inherent in good ideas that help save public funds in financial planning and execution. Hayward, an official with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, was picking the brains of his peers in the nation's capital May 31 to June 3 during the 81st annual conference of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Hayward knew the welcoming remarks of Washington's Mayor Marion Barry Jr., were true — "If your financial house is not in order, it distorts every other house you are trying to build."

More than 5,000 delegates and guests attended this year's conference, highlighted by remarks from former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb, noted urban developer James Rouse, and former White House spokesperson Larry Speakes. The conference theme, "The Finance Officer as Communicator," was reflected in a number of seminars on press relations and communicating financial information. Other seminars covered the impact of tax reform, municipal bond options, investment strategies, liability insurance, and pension and benefits programs.

"I get a lot of ideas from this conference for our operation in Massachusetts," Hayward says. "We try to take the best ideas of other communities and use them to improve what we do."

Rouse spoke to a general-session audience on America's severe poverty problem, and the efforts of his Enterprise Foundation in discovering and implementing creative solutions to the nation's low-income housing needs. "We've seen a new life, a new sparkle, in American cities in the last dozen years," Rouse said, reflecting on urban redevelopment successes in Boston and Baltimore. "The great dynamic activity of the next 20 years will be in the inner city."

But America has a "cancer" in the inner city, Rouse said, characterized by severe poverty, homelessness, crime, unemployment, and drug and alcohol abuse. "There must be federal money to assist cities and states to promote private activity," Rouse said, emphasizing the necessity of local responsibility for initiating and financing housing programs.

"Large government housing projects are not the answer," he added. "There are answers. The future American city is one that works for all its people, with decent housing for all."

At a session on Washington developments, John McEvoy of Kutak, Rode & Campbell told a standing-room-only audience, "The Reagan Revolution is over. Congress will do little in the next 15 months. There will be some dismemberment of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings because you cannot control the deficit by setting pie-in-the-sky numbers. There will be tax increases (indirect) next year and watch out for increased pressure on tax-exempt bonds."

During the conference, the GFOA and Atlanta announced a legal challenge to two provisions of the 1986 Tax Reform Act. At issue are federal restrictions on the use of arbitrage and the alternative minimum tax.

The GFOA also named its officers for the coming year. Patrick C. Glisson, director of finance for Atlanta, was elected president, while Frank L. Greathouse, director of the Division of Audit for Tennessee, was named president-elect.

Glisson has been a member of the GFOA's Executive Board since 1984. Before becoming Atlanta's finance director in 1982, he served five years as finance director for DeKalb County, Ga.

Greathouse also has been on the Executive Board since 1984. He previously chaired the National Council on Governmental Accounting and is immediate past chair of the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council.

GRCDA Names Landfill Winners

Attempting to demonstrate landfills can be good neighbors and environmentally acceptable, the Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCDA) initiated the Landfill Excellence Competition. The landfills were judged on aspects such as siting, design, operation, environmental protection and post-closure use.

Excellence Award winners were the Delaware Solid Waste Authority's Southern and Central solid-waste facilities, and John Sexton Corp.'s Miller Road sanitary landfill in Saginaw,

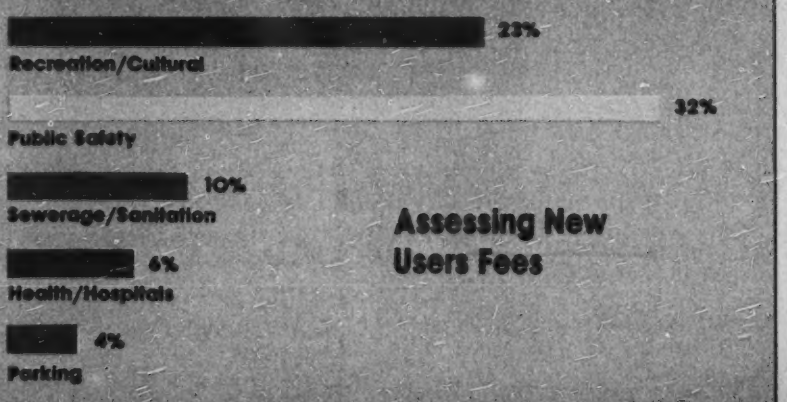
Survey Spotlight

Assessing New Users Fees

The practice of charging fees for basic public services and for the use of public facilities is increasing, according to a survey of 400 U.S. cities conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Arthur Young & Co. Survey data show nearly 70 percent of the responding cities have instituted user fees within the last 10 years and 15 percent have introduced new fees within the last five years.

While local governments traditionally have charged user fees for recreation, sewerage, sanitation and utility services, respondents say the need for additional income has forced them to add fees for a variety of recreational services, such as ball fields, picnic grounds and swimming pools. Fees also have been introduced for more specialized public safety services, including special police patrols and accident reports. These fees, however, are motivated more by a need to regulate service demand or curb abuse and waste, respondents say.

Aware of the possibility fees may discourage members of low-income groups from using fee-supported services, city officials answering the survey say this has not occurred for 80 percent of those responding.



Survey Monitors Computer Use

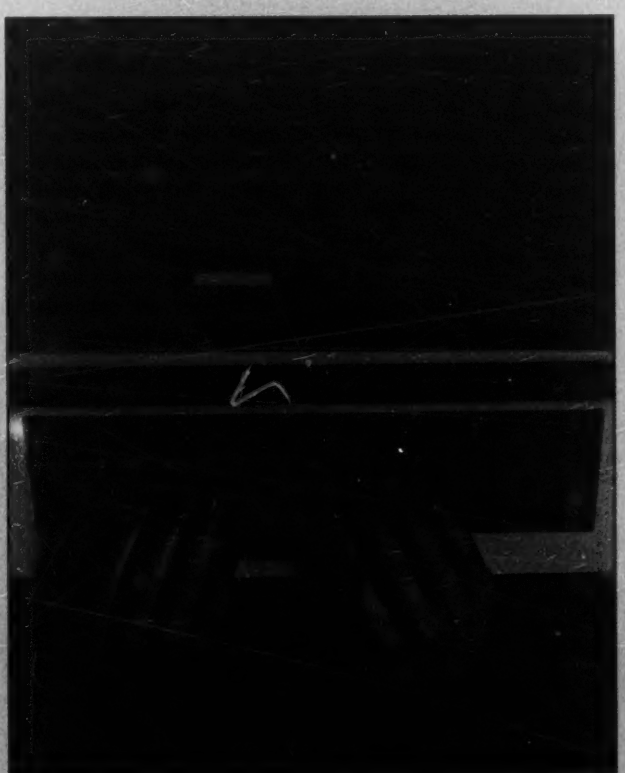
An exclusive *American City & County*/Hewlett Packard survey of office-automation trends in local government says computerization is spreading to nearly all municipal functions.

By John Sequerth, Managing Editor

Short on cash and out of milk, the man drives toward a nearby plaza. Stopping at the bank, he inserts a plastic card into the automated teller machine, pushes buttons step-by-step and accepts the money. As he drives to the supermarket, a red light flashes on the dashboard, indicating low fuel. After filling his gas tank, the man enters the grocery store, picks up a gallon of milk and heads for the express checkout. The cashier nonchalantly pulls the milk over a window on the counter. A green light blinks and the register speaks, "One. Ninety-nine." The purchase has been logged automatically for store inventory records.

Computers pervade nearly every aspect of life — personal, commercial and governmental. According to the annual *American City & County* office-automation survey, co-sponsored by Hewlett Packard (HP), nearly 90 percent of the governments surveyed have in-house computer equipment. For communities with more than 100,000 residents, the figure rises to 98 percent.

The survey was sent to 1,000 readers of *American City & County*, selected randomly by computer, naturally. More than 25 percent answered the questionnaire. Approximately 87 percent of the respondents represent cities, towns or villages, with 13 percent working at the county level. Of those from cities, 76 percent live in communities with less than 100,000 residents. The county sampling is more evenly divided, with 47 percent of the respondents from counties with less than 100,000 people and 53 percent from larger counties.



Respondents represent all areas of the nation: the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states (25 percent); Southeast (17 percent); North Central and Midwest (30 percent); Southwest (12 percent) and West (16 percent).

The survey questioned readers on the types of office and computer equipment their communities have, areas of use, budget plans, productivity improvements and future trends.

Personal computers (PCs) are the most common type of in-house equipment, with 52 percent using PCs. Robert Schneider of Digital Equipment Corp. says the proliferation of PCs has led to a trend toward networking. Since local governments have made a considerable investment in PCs, "they want to get more out of their equipment," he says. "They have the opportunity to use a PC as a window to a larger system. With the PC, you can build indefinitely."

According to the survey, 52 percent of the respondents have not yet linked PCs. Nearly 14 percent of the respondents say their communities have between two and 25 PCs networked, while 34 percent have more than 25 PCs linked in a system. Networking is more prevalent in larger communities. Forty-four percent of the respondents from cities or counties with more than 100,000 people say they have 25 or more PCs linked.

David Norman, chief executive officer for Businessland Inc., a large retail chain specializing in PCs, says the demand for networking is on the rise. "Clearly, connectivity has arrived, and in 1987, we will see continued growth in the connectivity of personal computers," he says. "We will also see the true implementation of voice and data integration beginning to happen in the office."

"Eventually, cities will be linked with distant databases."

Gresham, Ore., has linked all seven city departments to two Digital VAX computers. The city has connected 130 micros, terminals and printers, as well as 35 PCs, enhancing communication among all areas of city government. Gresham has an extensive electronic mail system, connecting department heads with the city manager's office. "Our system allows fast-track decision-making," says Mark Kemper, director of data processing, "and eliminates telephone tag. It helps motivate our employees."

Kemper says the computer linkage absolutely was necessary. Gresham, which borders Portland on the east, is "growing by leaps and bounds," he says. "Last year, we had 34,000 people. This year we have 47,000, and by next year, the population will be 56,000." The city is annexing unincorporated county land, and the ability to share information quickly is important, he adds.

"We have a relatively young and motivated staff throughout the city," Kemper says. "There has been great support for the system and almost everybody was anxious to use it."

Most networking projects occur after

Fort Collins Develops PBX-based Network

Like other fast-growing cities, Fort Collins, Colo., must cope with the various demands growth places on a city government and its computer resources. The government employs 850 people in 11 departments, and 44 percent are considered information workers. To serve its 88,000 residents better, the city needed a data communications network to make vital information available in a timely manner.

"Building an efficient and economical system requires a lot of planning and close work with vendors," says Marsiea Dahlgren, director of information and communication systems (ICS) for Fort Collins. In addition to service and support, integration, communications, economy and a wide range of capabilities were essential considerations for the network. Because most city employees lack computer experience, ease of use also is an important factor.

"Service and support are critical to success," Dahlgren says. "Without it, the transition to office automation would have been much more difficult."

In the initial planning stages, specialists from Hewlett-Packard (HP) assisted the ICS team in establishing goals and identifying resources for the new system. The team then chose certain employees to participate in training programs for special applications, such as word processing and electronic mail. These employees then trained and supported other users. A new information management system was designed, using existing equipment and implementing a vital communications link based on a digital PBX rather than networking software. Both telephone and data transmissions are routed over phone lines.

Criteria for the computer system emerged from the initial planning process. "We wanted intuitive software with good documentation," Dahlgren says. "If the software is difficult, then people simply will not use it, negating any possible productivity gains. No matter how economical the system is initially, if it isn't used, you lose in the long run."

Economy was a definite concern. An analysis performed prior to implementing the system projected a 650 percent return on investment within five years. Dahlgren says the projections are proving to be correct. One City Council member estimates electronic mail has reduced telephone tag by one-third.

In the past, approximately 8,000 documents were created monthly, ranging from memos to a variety of forms and official papers. The city estimates the cost of a simple memo has been reduced from $8.43 to 83 cents with electronic mail.

According to a survey of city workers, 68 percent say they now can complete their jobs in less time; 31 percent are performing new functions due to productivity gains; and 65 percent are obtaining information previously inaccessible, resulting in more informed decision-making.

Integration was another major selection criterion. Since the city already had computers, incorporating these into the new system was important to avoid excessive costs and loss on investment. In addition, portable and personal computers from different vendors and third-party software had to be accommodated.

The city also requires a broad range of applications. All departments use database management, spreadsheet capabilities, word processing and electronic mail, but some departments require other capabilities, such as graphics. Communication is the key element required to tie the various computers and departments together. More than 210 personal computers communicate through the network, including PCs from HP, Apple, IBM, Compaq and other IBM compatibles.

The city's Water and Wastewater Utility requires a broad range of applications, including graphics and heavy database usage. Many applications run on powerful workstations, but three laboratory computers and eight portable models also are used.

The department maintains a huge database, listing every piece of equipment and plant in the system and its maintenance history. In addition, a schedule automatically alerts workers when maintenance is due. A large mapping system tracks every water and sewer line in the metropolitan area, allowing underground leaks or breaks to be located quickly. Mike Smith, the utility's director, says the mapping system is updated frequently. "With the new system," he says, "we can produce maps significantly faster than we could previously.

"Our engineers also have CAD and graphics capabilities, and we are expanding those and other applications rapidly," Smith says. "We plan to become fully automated in the not-too-distant future. The new computer system will enable us to provide our customers with the same kind of service usually found only in the largest cities." □

the local government has acquired several PCs in various departments. In Augusta, Maine, however, a new City Hall is being built with the network planned from the outset. Each workstation in the new building will have an outlet with four options — telephone, high- and low-speed computer or video camera/television connections. The facility is being designed as an "intelligent building," giving city employees added flexibility.

When questioned about key issues facing the respondents' department/organization in relation to information technology and office automation, 33 percent name the integration of personal computers as most important. Adequate user training is the most frequent response, with 44 percent calling it a priority. Information access and distribution also were rated highly, with 41 percent calling distribution a major challenge.

While personal computers are the most common pieces of office automation equipment, 42 percent of the respondents say their local government has mainframe computers, 40 percent use word processors, 31 percent have microcomputers and 28 percent utilize minicomputers.

Since IBM dominates the PC market, seeing the company named as the primary hardware supplier by 48 percent of the survey respondents is not surprising. Other companies named include Unisys (8 percent), NCR (6 percent), Digital (3 percent) and HP (3 percent).

Improving productivity

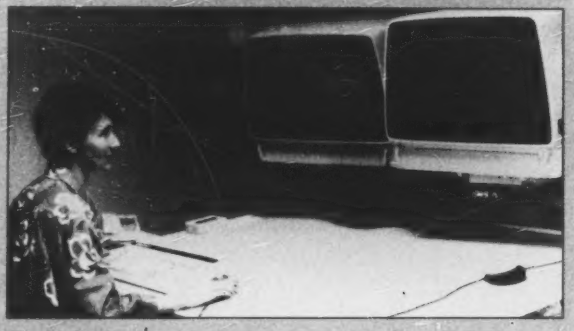
Why computerize? Survey respondents say using computers boosts productivity. Although 24 percent of those answering say productivity has in-

Bellevue Converts to Distributed System

After a successful experience with computerized mapping, Bellevue, Wash., officials decided a highly interactive system could offer more benefits than its mainframe-oriented, centralized approach.

Located near Seattle, Bellevue has 82,000 residents within 26½ square miles. The city's service area, however, extends into unincorporated King County, covering 40 square miles. Incorporated in 1953, Bellevue had five independent water and sewer districts until 1972. When the city annexed those districts into one municipal department, five billing and accounting systems had to be consolidated — a challenge prompting the city to purchase a Burroughs mainframe computer.

Today, Bellevue is converting its municipal-management software from the mainframe to a network powered by clustered minicomputers. "We were very pleased with what we could do with our mapping system, which had a strong impact on our choice of an automated system for the Police Department," says Bob Parks, Bellevue's director of information services. "We could see the opportunity for increased synergy — and decided to put our software on a cluster of minicomputers. We're now beginning to see the benefits of this approach."



Kirsty Burt, a senior planner, accesses the attributes data, which describe land parcels.

Bellevue's computer network includes a cluster of three Digital Equipment minicomputers, one VAX-8650 and two VAX-11/750s. All three systems interact together, and are accessed by a network of 70 terminals and about half of the 140 city-owned PCs.

One minicomputer is tied into the automated mapping and planning system (AMPS) and the other is dedicated to a maintenance and operations management system (MOMS). The 8650 is used for most system development activities, electronic mail and general purpose applications, such as polygon processing for the mapping system. Minicomputers in City Hall and at the Police and Fire Communications Center link the police records system with the "911" police and fire emergency-dispatching system.

City officials determined a mainframe computer located in City Hall would not be suited to the demands of police and fire dispatch. They wanted a computer system dedicated to police and fire emergencies networked via telephone lines to the computer system at City Hall. When the dispatcher receives a call, the system automatically flashes the name and address of the citizen calling 911 on the screen. The police dispatch system, containing the current status of all police cars, identifies the next available car to the dispatcher. When a police car is dispatched, the information is recorded. After handling the incident, the officer's report also is entered into the system. That file then is transferred over the telephone lines to the computer system at City Hall.

This system also is used by the Fire Department, which has a printing terminal in each fire station. As the dispatcher enters the pertinent data into the computer system, that information is transmitted to the fire house and each dispatched unit receives a printed copy.

The ability to share information throughout the network is one of the system's most important benefits, allowing the city to leverage its computer investment into a variety of applications. For example, now that the information base in the automated mapping system is mature, the city plans to start using it with other existing software systems.

Bellevue intends to use the mapping system for transportation modeling to solve ingress and egress problems in the downtown area. Mapping for the water, sewer and drainage systems has been digitized and entered into the map base. Another important use of the automated mapping system is the city's water-distribution management system. By using AMPS and the general purpose computer, water consumption for each zone can be analyzed, helping the community plan for future expansion of the water system and assess usage rates.

Although Bellevue has advanced equipment, the system's success depends on more than equipment alone, Parks says. "Close cooperation with user departments has been extremely important. Users have to feel computerization will be useful and cost-effective," he says. "Once a system is in place, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Networking can tie individual databases together to promote efficiencies that the original user departments did not foresee." □

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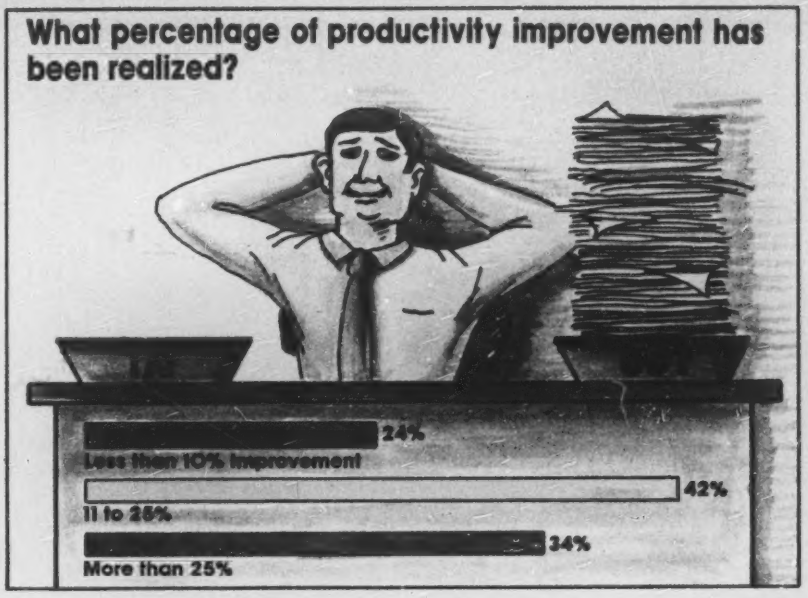


creased by less than 10 percent, 42 percent say the improvement has been between 11 and 25 percent. Another 34 percent report productivity has increased more than 25 percent by using computers.

Computers, which were used first for administrative functions, now are being used in all areas of local government. And one of the predominant reasons is affordability. "As the costs of computing come down," Schneider says, "it becomes cost-effective to put more functions online."

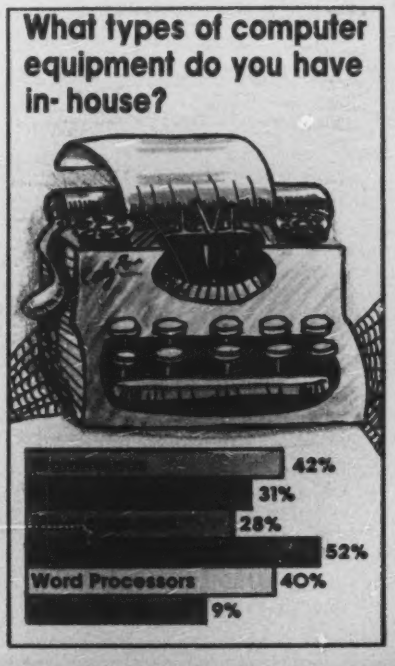
While local governments may get more for their money, budget figures for computer-related expenditures remain steady. Local governments are allotting approximately the same budget amounts for computer expenditures in fiscal 1988 as they did in 1987 and 1986. For communities with less than 100,000 residents, 83 percent say $50,000 or less was spent on computer-related equipment in 1987. Sixteen percent say their community spent between $50,000 and $249,999. Only 1 percent say more than $250,000 was spent.

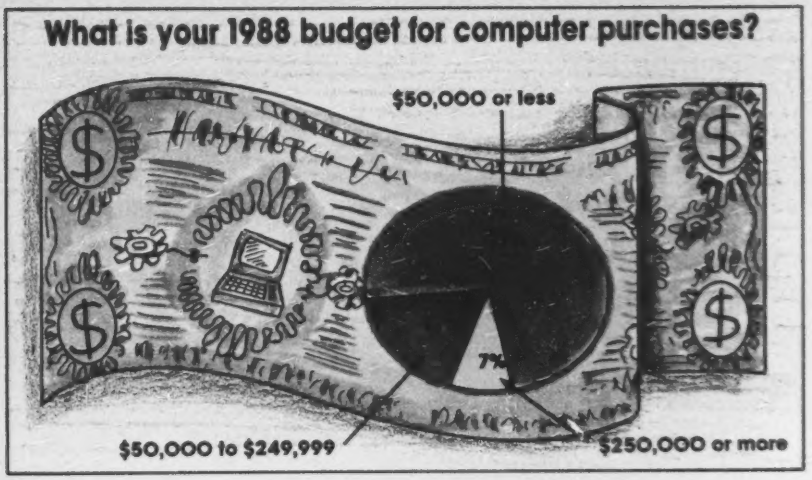
For 1988, 83 percent again plan to spend $50,000 or less, with 17 percent intending to spend more than $50,000. Larger governments obviously will buy more computer-related equipment. Forty-five percent of the respondents from cities or counties with more than 100,000 residents expect to spend more than $50,000 in fiscal 1988.

Administrative functions still are the most dominant areas for computer use. Nearly 76 percent say their communities use computers for word processing, 69 percent for personnel/payroll, 64 percent for financial planning and 40 percent for tax records.

Public works areas are being computerized as well. More than 47 percent say computers are used for utility billing, 36 percent for water and wastewater operations, 24.5 percent for fleet management, 19 percent for traffic engineering and 19 percent for street maintenance. In cities and counties with more than 100,000 residents, those figures are greater. Nearly 18 percent of larger communities have computerized solid-waste collection and disposal departments, 19 percent have automated park and recreation operations, 12 percent use computers for building maintenance and security, and another 12 percent have computerized public-transit systems.

Fleet management is one application showing an increase in computeriza-





tion, compared with last year's survey results. A software-based package has contributed to significant cost reductions in Indianapolis. "We have a comprehensive approach to fleet management," says James Garvie, administrator for the Central Equipment Management Division (CEMD). "But without the support of the data-processing system, we could not have accomplished our goals."

Garvie says computerization has helped Indianapolis save more than $500,000 annually in payroll costs. The number of CEMD employees has decreased about 35 percent since 1980, but "we increased productivity with less employees," he adds. Additional savings have been realized by cutting parts costs and reducing the number of outside contractual services.

Mike Bright, systems analyst for CEMD, says a work order is entered into the computer as each vehicle is brought to the garage for repair. Parts and labor costs are tracked by using computer codes. Any contractual charges also are recorded. After a repair is made and the vehicle has left the garage, the appropriate city department is assessed for the repair. The system also tracks employee time. CEMD is responsible for 1,800 vehicles and 1,200 miscellaneous pieces of equipment from nearly all major manufacturers.

The fleet management computer system also interfaces with an automated fuel system. This computerized function has eliminated personnel previously needed for dispensing gas to city vehicles and keeping fuel inventory.

Mapping applications

Computerized geographic mapping systems also have contributed to an increased use of computers in public works applications. This geographic database can be shared by a variety of departments. A geographic information system can include many different layers, including land-use zoning, streets, utility distribution, drainage information, housing and property boundaries.

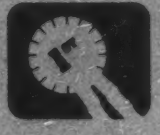
"The real strength of a geographic system is its ability to pull together data from many sources and tie the information to features on a map," says David Sonnen of Deltasystems. "This capability lets the planner use existing databases rather than duplicating, re-

Amite City Computerizes Billing System

By Elizabeth Dillard, Editorial Assistant

Believing a computerized water and garbage billing system would increase efficiency and save money, Amite City, La., began investigating several different computer systems, only to find all were $40,000 more than the town's $10,000 budget. Luck was in the town's favor, however.

At nearby Southeastern Louisiana University, two computer specialists, Tom F. Griffin and Michael C. Budden, were holding a seminar on computer services for small businesses. Attending the seminar was Mary Lou Lee, Amite City's town clerk. Impressed with what she heard, Lee convinced the town to approach the two professors about developing a system within budget limitations.



Award of Merit

Completed in November 1985, the system cost $9,785. In less than two years, the billing system already has paid for itself by saving the town more than $10,000 in unpaid bills, postage and handling. This type of efficiency and savings earned Amite City the *American City and County* 1986 Award of Merit, office automation division.

Budden says although he enjoyed helping the town, the transition was hectic at first. "In order to computerize the garbage and water billing system," he says, "we had to make sure the correct address was matched up with the right person, so we got together with the post office and the town, and conducted a field audit.

"What we found out," he adds, "was about 300 people were not being billed, which was amazing considering the size of Amite (population 4,429). The amount of money they got by putting these people online practically paid for the system in the first year."

The town received more than $6,000 in revenue from the field audit. In addition, Budden says, about 5 cents per-card per-route was saved because the bills now are presorted by carrier route instead of being sent first class.

The system consists of two 10-megabyte hard-disked-based microcomputers, word processing and database software, a high-speed printer and letter-quality printer. According to Budden, the menu-driven system is "bomb-proof," and almost anyone could sit down and learn to use it within a day.

"We used a Tandy model 1200HD PC, which is an IBM PC/XT-compatible unit; however, Tandy no longer markets that particular model," Budden says. "It will run on any system using an IBM PC/XT or compatible unit. It's a system to be used primarily for small towns."

The town liked the new system so much an additional $5,000 was budgeted and the two professors were asked to expand it. They added the sales tax, occupational license tax and most of the town's accounting system.

"They like the new system," Budden says, "or at least their CPA does. Tom (Griffin) and I enjoyed developing it." Lee summed up the town's feelings, saying, "We're very satisfied with the system. It has made things so much easier. It really is a delight." □

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formatting or re-entering data."

The speed of computers has enhanced public safety operations, cutting response time and allowing law-enforcement officers to be prepared more thoroughly.

The Police Department in Houston has used computers to cut response time on complaints to an average of seven minutes. When a complaint is lodged, the computer verifies the caller's location, routes the call to the proper dispatcher and checks for duplicate complaints from the same area of the city. A priority is assigned, an automatic display of the caller's address provided, and the nearest patrol car identified. Field officers can communicate with the dispatcher with mobile data terminals (MDTs). Officers can receive information on the computer screen rather than through radio transmissions. The MDTs also are linked to local, state and national law-enforcement and motor-vehicle databases, allowing officers to identify stolen cars and repeat offenders.

Schneider says connecting city operations with distant databases is the wave of the future. "Eventually, departmental groups will be connected with other city departments," he says. "Ultimately, cities will be linked with state governments, federal agencies and other distant databases."

Respondents also list the other types of office equipment used. More than 95 percent say they have in-house copiers and electric typewriters. Approximately half report using word processors. This equipment is instrumental to an integrated office system. Nearly 44 percent agree an integrated system includes "a set of office-related tools allowing all workers to generate, access, process, file, retrieve and distribute electronic messages, documents, data and graphics that are related and compatible with data processing and end-user computing."

"Computer technology will change the way government is structured," Schneider predicts. "Department lines are going to be blurred." He says private businesses already have restructured due to computerization. Some middle management positions have been cut, he says, because upper management, using computers, can obtain information directly from the field. He sees a parallel in the public sector, "but it may take some time." □

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** rose for the ninth consecutive month, to 346.1. The last time the index dropped was October 1986. The **Construction Cost Index** increased from 380.8 to 381.4, while the **Consumer Price Index** rose .5 percent, from June's 335.9 to 337.7. The **Producer Price Index** experienced the most growth during the past month, from 302.8 in June to July's 305.1.

Energy and petroleum products showed the most growth in July, with diesel fuel, fuel oil no. 2, gasoline and residual fuel rising. In the construction area, asphalt roofing fell .1 percent from last month, while portland cement increased .3 percent. Sand and gravel increased .6 percent, and lumber rose .4 percent over last month.

— Compiled by Tim Darnell

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	149.4	.2	.7
Apparel	186.3	.3	.9
Asphalt Roofing	366.0	−.1	−7.5
Books	144.9	.6	4.5
Chemicals, Industrial	331.1	1.9	2.1
Coal	521.9	−2.1	−3.4
Concrete Products	325.7	.3	−.2
Construction Machinery	383.1	.3	1.9
Diesel Fuel	412.9	4.2	4.7
Electric Components	202.2	.2	.9
Electric Lamps	347.5	−.7	−.3
Electric Power	438.4	−.8	−3.3
Engines, I.C.	359.0	−.1	1.8
Fans, Blowers	371.4	−.3	.9
Fertilizers, Mixed	255.6	.5	.2
Floor Coverings	198.0	.7	1.4
Flow Instruments	239.9	.1	2.3
Footwear	264.9	−.2	1.0
Foundry Products	363.7	.2	−.2
Fuel Oil No. 2	435.3	4.8	3.7
Furniture	326.3	.8	3.1
Gasoline	388.8	5.5	14.2
Generator Sets	355.0	.4	1.4
Glass	236.9	1.0	3.0
Glass Containers	403.8	−.1	2.3
Gypsum Products	324.5	−.9	−6.3
Hardware	306.0	.2	0
Heating Equipment	274.7	.1	3.0
HVAC Controls	131.8	−.3	3.9
LP Gas	345.9	−3.8	−8.0
Lubricants	351.5	1.5	−6.8
Lumber	328.4	.4	6.9
Metal Fabrications	318.8	.1	1.2
Millwork	326.4	.7	3.6
Motor Vehicle Parts	368.0	−.4	2.7
Mowers	265.3	.4	.6
Natural Gas	1098.1	2.7	−15.2
Office Machines	157.5	.1	2.1
Paint	322.7	1.9	2.1
Paper	315.3	.8	3.9
Passenger Cars	240.6	2.4	3.4
Plumbing Fixtures	331.3	−.1	2.7
Plywood	234.6	−2.3	−4.0
Portland Cement	346.8	.3	−3.8
Residual Fuel	614.6	3.9	18.8
Sand, Gravel	328.4	.6	3.7
Sanitary Papers	387.0	.4	1.5
Soaps, Detergents	274.6	−.1	.4
Sporting Goods	208.6	−.1	1.6
Steel Mill Products	353.4	0	1.8
Struc. Clay Products	315.6	.9	2.9
Switchgear	290.9	0	1.5
Tires, Tubes	232.2	.4	−1.6
Transformers	236.1	−.4	.6
Trucks	344.9	−.3	.6
Valves	106.9	−1.1	.1
Wire, Cable	203.7	−.8	−1.5
Wiring Devices	378.8	−.2	1.3

At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

Last Year 336.5 — Last Month 344.6 — This Month 346.1

Percent Change From Last: Month .4 Year 2.9

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

Last Year 372.6 — Last Month 380.8 — This Month 381.4

Percent Change From Last: Month .2 Year 2.4

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 325.3 — Last Month 335.9 — This Month 337.7

Percent Change From Last: Month .5 Year 3.9

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year 297.9 — Last Month 302.8 — This Month 305.1

Percent Change From Last: Month .8 Year 2.4

These figures are calculated on a base year of 1967.

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	634.8B	.9	7.8
Federal Grants	104.1B	6.6	−10.9
Durable Purchases	23.6B	3.1	9.8
Consumables	37.6B	2.7	−6.0
Services	387.4B	2.3	8.0
Structures	64.6B	−2.7	16.2
Salaries, Wages	309.8B	2.3	6.0
Surplus	59.4B	−7.7	1.0
Employment	13.999M	−.4	2.7